

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

April 9, 2007

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Clouette, Haddad, Hawkins, Koehn, Paterson, Paulhus

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Hawkins moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2007 regular meeting and the special meeting. Ms. Koehn requested that the current language in the minutes of the regular meeting regarding the Clean Energy Team be changed to the following:

Ms. Koehn reported that the Clean Energy Team sponsored a bulb and lamp sale that resulted in sales of \$2000 at the Town Hall and \$1000 at the Winter Fun Fest. The use of these bulbs will result in energy reduction equal to the amount used in 15 households in one year.

The motion to approve the minutes as corrected passed unanimously.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Paterson requested a moment of silence in honor of and respect for our troops around the world.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

No comments

V. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Budget

Matthew Hart, Town Manager, presented an overview of the budget.

Connie Greene, Circle Drive, asked how a retired person is suppose to pay for the increase in property taxes. She expressed concern that the education budget is too inflated and urged Council members to live within their means, as she must.

Tom Morrison, 37 Farmstead Road, expressed concern about the increase in the Town budget for the Community Center. He stated that voters were told that fees would cover operating expenses and now tax money is being spent to cover these expenses.

Gene Nesbitt, 268 Wormwood Hill Road, asked the Council to use the upcoming strategic planning process to evaluate their initiatives. He suggested that some of the current initiatives

like the additional trooper and the Community Center support be put aside until this planning is completed. Mr. Nesbitt also asked if the leaders from the three sending towns have gotten together to form a game plan regarding Region 19's budget.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, expressed her concerns regarding supplementing the budget of the Community Center, the quality of the education in Town schools and suggested a restructuring of the salary and pension program in the Town.

Matthew Hart, Town Manager, announced two public information sessions to be held on the 12th at the Library and on the 17th at the Community Center.

VI. SWEARING IN OF FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

2 Swearing in of Fire Department Officers

Chief Dave Dagon described the process that brought us to this swearing in ceremony. As a result of the consolidation of the 2 Fire Departments last September it was necessary to appoint officers for the new Fire Department. The appointments are a result of the examination process and are the first of group of volunteer Fire Lieutenants and career Fire Captains appointed to the Department's supervisory ranks.

The Town Clerk swore in the following candidates:

Brett Macnamara, Lieutenant

Brian Jones, Lieutenant

Michael Thompson, Lieutenant

Andrew Franklin, Captain

Daniel Davis, Captain

Ryan Hawthorne, Captain

Shane Schaffer, Acting Captain

Mayor Paterson and the Council congratulated the new appointees and thanked them for their work.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

3. Community/Campus Relations

The Town Manager reported that the Pubic Safety Committee continues to plan for Spring Weekend. The Mansfield Community-Campus Partnership will be presenting a D.U.I. demonstration at 3:00 on Friday the 13th at the Community Center.

4. Community Water and Wastewater Issues

The Town Manager reported that the Advisory Committee met last week and the draft update to the Master Plan is almost ready, probably next week. Mr. Hart also noted that the connection to the Celeron Square expansion was approved with a condition that limits maximum daily use.

5. Social Services Block Grant

Mr. Haddad moved and Ms. Koehn seconded to approve the following resolution:

Resolved, effective April 9, 2007, to authorize Town Manager Matthew W. Hart to execute a grant agreement with the US Department of Health and Human Services for a Social Services Block Grant in the amount of \$3,657

Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

6. Grant Application to the Office of Policy and Management

Mr. Clouette moved and Ms. Koehn seconded to approve the following resolution:

Resolved, effective April 9, 2007, that Matthew W. Hart, Town Manager, is empowered to execute and to deliver in the name of and on behalf of this municipality, an application and a contract with the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management for ADA compliance grant funding

Matthew Hart, Town Manager, stated that these funds would be used for the installation of ADA compliant exterior doors, washrooms, water fountains, and entry doors to the Council Chambers. The Advisory Committee on Persons with Disabilities has identified all these projects as priorities. Mr. Haddad asked if the sound system in the Council Chambers could be addressed by this grant. The Town Manager will pass this suggestion to the Committee.

IX. QUARTERLY REPORTS

X. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

XI. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

XII. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ms. Koehn reported that the Clean Energy Committee is working hard on the Earth Day event which will be held on April 24th at the Community Center starting at 1:00 p.m. The Mayor will present a proclamation to the E.O. Smith students who won first place in the CT Climate Change contest and the Town Manager will be promoting alternative energy program. Ms. Koehn extended an invitation to Council members to join the celebration.

Mr. Paulhus reported that the Memorial Day Committee has met to plan the event. Mr. Paulhus will be the Master of Ceremonies.

Mayor Paterson and the Town Manager met with Representative Joe Courtney last Thursday.

They reported that it was a very informational meeting. The two also attended the Trooper of the Year Awards at which 2 former Mansfield troopers were honored for their actions.

XIII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Attached

Mr. Clouette inquired whether or not all employees in Town are on the same pension plan. Mr. Hart briefly explained MERS, the defined benefit program offered to all full time employees. The MERS program in part of all the union contracts in Town. Mr. Hart will investigate alternatives but thinks that if MERS is the pension program in a town other plans cannot be offered simultaneously.

XIV. FUTURE AGENDAS

XV. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

7. CCM re: Real Estate Conveyance Tax

8. A. Hawkins Letter to CCM – In answer to a question at the last meeting, Mr. Hawkins reported that he spoke to the lobbyist for the Firefighters who reported that if House Bill 6927 is approved it would not affect the union contracts until the next negotiation period. He also asked if the cover letter approved at the last meeting has been prepared. The Mayor will attend to it.

9. L. Hultgren re:Town Line and Scenic Road Signs – The Town Manager thanked Rudy Favretti for his design of the signs. Mr. Paulhus questioned the date on the signs. Was the town founded in 1702 or 1703? Staff will investigate.

10. Press Release re: Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Budget

11. Protecting Family Farms and forest

12. D. Williams re: Health Care Forum

13. Windham Hospital re: Women's Health Workshop

XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk